

Application Serial No. 10/502,550

REMARKS

1. Applicant thanks the Examiner for his remarks and observations which have greatly assisted Applicant in responding.

2. 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Published Application no. 200020594 ("Muneo"). As shown in Figure 2, Muneo describes a sensor element and oscillatory wave analyzer. As described, the detection elements are plate-shaped cantilevers.

The claimed invention, by contrast, comprises a sound/vibration resonance separating device for resonance separating. As shown in Figures 2 and 3 of the Application, the vibrating elements comprise a plurality of resonant strands, e.g. piano wires. There is no teaching or suggestion in Muneo of using resonant strands as vibrators.

Therefore, to describe the claimed invention in greater detail, claims 1-3 are amended to describe that vibrating elements of the oscillator as "resonant strands."

Claim 2 has been amended to further describe that the resonant strands "are sized so that resonance of at least some of the strands is readily observable to observers without additional instrumentation." In sharp contrast, Muneo's oscillatory wave sensor is implemented as an integrated circuit. Thus, the sensors are of such a size and scale that visual observance of their action without additional instrumentation would be difficult if not impossible. One embodiment of the invention is an education tool that allows users to observe the nature of sound and vibration. Therefore, an important feature of this embodiment is that it be scaled such that the resonance in the vibrating elements be readily observable, thereby graphically demonstrating that a sound signal includes a variety of frequency components.

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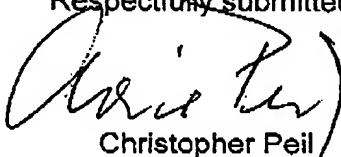
Because the claims, as amended, describe subject matter that is neither taught nor suggested by Muneo, they are deemed to be patentably distinct, and, therefore, allowable.

The claims have been additionally amended to remedy various errors in syntax and grammar. While Applicant believes that these additional amendments are supported by the original claims, additional support for the amendments is found in Figures 2-4 of the Application and the accompanying description.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the Application is deemed to be in allowable condition. Therefore, reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims is earnestly requested. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the Application, he is invited to contact Applicant's attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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